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PRESS RELEASE*(For immediate release)***New AMISOM Head Visits Mogadishu, Meets with Somali President**

Mogadishu, 18 December, 2012: The newly appointed Special Representative of the Chairperson African Union Commission on Somalia, Amb. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, today met with Somali President H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud and senior Somali officials at the culmination of a two-day visit to Mogadishu, his second visit to the Somali capital within the last month.

"I am very happy to be once again in Mogadishu and look forward to deploying here on a more permanent basis in the coming weeks," said Amb. Annadif.

"I had a very fruitful discussion with President Mahmoud and assured him of the AU's and AMISOM's continued support for the stabilization efforts of his government," he said.

"AMISOM has played a crucial role in helping Somalia overcome decades of strife and we will continue to support our Somali brothers and sisters as they move towards a new era of peace and stability," he added.

Yesterday, he briefly met with the Deputy Prime Minister, Faouzia Adam and received briefings from senior AMISOM military, police and civilian staff, before touring the newly built Mission Headquarters, where he will be based, as well as the AMISOM Level II Hospital and Out-Patient Department.

Amb. Annadif also met with UN special envoy, Amb. Augustine Mahiga, the head of the League of Arab States mission in Somalia, Amb. Mohamed Abdalla Idris and the Counselor from the Sudanese embassy in Somalia, Dr. Abdelmunaim Hussein.

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